

# EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **U.S. CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES, A.I. MEETS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS**

**DHAKA, MARCH 9 --** Geeta Pasi, the U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., met today with Awami League Acting President Zillur Rahman and former BNP Finance Minister Saifur Rahman. The meetings were also attended by other party leaders. Ms. Pasi intends to meet with other political leaders over the next few weeks.

Ms. Pasi and the political leaders discussed a wide range of issues, focusing on the current political situation in Bangladesh and the status of implementation of the electoral roadmap. She reiterated the United States Government’s desire to see free, fair and fully participatory elections by the end of 2008 as promised by the Caretaker Government and underscored the important role the political parties will play in this process. Ms. Pasi noted the importance of dialogue between the political parties and the government in order to establish the proper conditions for holding elections.

With regard to those imprisoned on corruption charges, Ms. Pasi underscored the need to observe due process. She noted that the U.S. is closely monitoring the trials of those accused of corruption, including the two former Prime Ministers, and noted that the U.S. Embassy had requested permission to send observers to the trial of Sheikh Hasina.

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*Note: A Bangla translation of this article is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov); Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)*